



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

ANNIVERSARY ANNALS

A rundown of anniversaries that will be celebrated in the NFL in 2004:

Celebration	Anniversary
135th	First football game in history takes place, between Rutgers and Princeton (11/6/1869).
105th	Morgan Athletic Club football team, now the Arizona Cardinals, is founded. The team is the oldest continuing operation in pro football (1899).
85th	NFL celebrates 85th season in 2004. League was formed in Canton, Ohio (8/20/20).
75th	Pop Warner football program starts up as four-team league (1929).
75th	Providence becomes first NFL team to host a game at night under floodlights against the Chicago Cardinals (11/3/29).
75th	Chicago Cardinals' Ernie Nevers scores 40 points and six touchdowns against the Chicago Bears on Thanksgiving Day. Both are longest-standing records in NFL history (11/28/29).
70th	First Chicago College All-Star Game is played between the Bears and the best college football players before 79,432 fans at Soldier Field (8/31/34).
65th	First Pro Bowl is played as the New York Giants defeat the Pro All-Stars 13-10 at Wrigley Field in Los Angeles (1/15/39).
65th	NFL game is televised for first time when NBC broadcasts the Brooklyn Dodgers vs. Philadelphia Eagles game from Ebbets Field to approximately 1,000 sets in New York (10/22/39).
60th	Chicago Cardinals and Pittsburgh Steelers merge for one season under the name Card-Pitt (4/21/44).
45th	Vince Lombardi is named head coach of the Green Bay Packers (1/28/59).
45th	Lamar Hunt and fellow businessmen announce intentions to start a second professional football league, later named the American Football League (8/14/59).
40th	Commissioner Pete Rozelle negotiates an agreement on behalf of the NFL clubs to purchase Ed Sabol's Blair Motion Pictures, which is re-named NFL Films (3/5/64).
35th	The title "Super Bowl" is used for the first time (1/12/69).
35th	AFL team wins Super Bowl for first time as the New York Jets defeat the Baltimore Colts 16-7 at Miami in Super Bowl III (1/12/69).
35th	Agreement with ABC to televise Monday Night Football is signed for 1970. ABC acquires rights to televise 13 regular-season Monday-night NFL games in 1970, 1971 and 1972 (1969).
30th	One sudden-death overtime period is added for preseason and regular-season games (4/25/74).
30th	NFL-United Way public service TV campaign begins. The partnership has aired more than 1,000 messages through local TV time donated by the NFL, making it the longest-running public-service ad campaign in TV history (1974).
25th	Minnesota Vikings defense end Jim Marshall ends 282 consecutive-game streak (12/16/79).
15th	Paul Tagliabue is named Commissioner of the NFL (10/26/89).
10th	The two-point conversion is adopted (3/22/94).

135 YEARS AGO: FIRST FOOTBALL GAME

It all started 135 years ago.

Rutgers and Princeton Universities played a college soccer football game, the first ever, on November 6, 1869. The game used modified London Football Association rules.

During the next seven years, rugby gained favor with the major eastern schools over soccer, and modern football began to develop from rugby.

“The rivalry in the 1800s between Princeton and Rutgers was intense,” said **JOHN W. HERBERT**, a former Rutgers player and author of History of Football. “For years each had striven for possession of an old Revolutionary cannon, making night forays and lugging it back and forth between the schools time and again. Not long before the first football game, the canny Princetonians had settled this competition by ignominiously sinking the gun in several feet of concrete. In addition to this, Princeton had beaten Rutgers in baseball by the harrowing score of 40-2. Rutgers longed for a chance to square things.” The stage was set. The rest is history:

THE FIRST FOOTBALL GAME

WHO	Rutgers University vs. Princeton University.
WHEN	November 6, 1869 at 3:00 p.m.
WHERE	College Field in New Brunswick, NJ (site of present-day Rutgers gymnasium).
CAPTAINS	Rutgers: William J. Leggett Princeton: William Gunmere
DETAILS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">25 players on each team positioned themselves upon a 140 x 70 yard field.2 players lined up near opponent's goal, 11 "fielders" defended their team's territory and 12 "bulldogs" carried battle toward opponent's goal.Each time a team scored, it counted as a game. The contest was complete after 10 games were played.After each game, the teams switched directions and offensive team advanced the ball by kicking it or batting it with their hands, feet, sides, or heads.
RESULT	Rutgers defeated Princeton 6-4 , but the game ended on a friendly note and the teams shared a postgame meal
GAME REPORT IN THE TARGUM RUTGERS UNDERGRADUATE NEWSPAPER	"Princeton had the most muscle, but didn't kick very well, and wanted organization. They evidently don't like to kick the ball on the ground. Our men, on the other hand, though comparatively weak, ran well, and kicked well throughout. But their great point was the organization, for which great praise is due to the captain."